

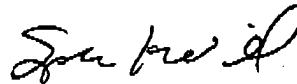
REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the abstract and claims 1-3, 13 and 15-22 have been amended. These amendments are being made to facilitate early allowance of the presently claimed subject matter, and not for any reasons relating to patentability.

Applicant appreciates the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative during the telephone interview on February 12, 2004. During the interview, the differences between the pending claims and the parent application (US Serial No. 10/426,143) were discussed. Applicants have revised the present application to clarify the differences with the parent application in claims 1, 2, 15 and 17, and not for any reasons relating to patentability. In particular, Applicants have clarified that the compaction member is independently vertically movable against a bias, and that the end gate does not have to be vertically self-adjusting. Any other revisions have been made to correct typographical errors.

Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance, and request prompt examination on the merits. Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary to place the application in better condition for allowance, he is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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